

Chapter 17: The Enlightenment

1. Discuss the major intellectual changes (all topics under paths) that led to the Enlightenment.
2. What specific contributions did the Philosophes Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Diderot make to the age of the Enlightenment? Compare and contrast their political ideas with Thomas Hobbes (Ch 15) and Machiavelli. What was Diderot known for?
3. Discuss the significance and the influence of John Locke and Isaac Newton on the Enlightenment.
4. What new ideas did the philosophes contribute on the following subjects: politics, the “new science of man,” economics, education, and religion?
5. What were the major ideas of Jean-Jacques Rousseau? In what ways were Rousseau's ideas unique, differing from those of his predecessors?
6. What role did women play in the development of the Enlightenment?
7. How do the art and literature of the eighteenth century reflect the political and social life of the period?
8. Define “high culture.” In what ways was high culture expressed in the eighteenth century? Briefly discuss crime and punishment and the world of medicine.
9. What is “popular culture” and how was it expressed in the eighteenth century? How do you explain the differences between high and popular culture at the time?
10. What kinds of experiences would you associate with the popular religion of the eighteenth century? How did the intellectual and emotional debates of the Enlightenment play themselves out in the realm of human spirituality, religion, and the churches? Discuss popular religion in the 18th c.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES (BOXED DOCUMENTS)

1. “The Separation of Powers”: As seen in this selection, what is Montesquieu's doctrine of the separation of powers? From which country's government might he have gotten his ideas? What are the underlying moral and political justifications of this system of government? How has this conception of the proper structure of the state clearly influenced later efforts in revolutionary rebuilding of government? Where? (page 507)
2. “The Attack on Religious Intolerance”: What are Voltaire's ideas regarding religious intolerance? Compare and contrast the excerpts from Voltaire's *The Ignorant Philosopher* and *Candide* is his discussion of the problem of religious intolerance. Do you think one is more effective than the other? Voltaire was a controversial figure in the eighteenth century? Why? Are his ideas regarding religion controversial today? If so, where? (page 509)
3. “Diderot Questions Christian Sexual Standards”: What does this passage from Diderot's *Supplement to the Voyage of Bougainville* say about enlightened conceptions of nature and the place of physical pleasure in human life? What might the connections be between writing of this kind and the simultaneous deeper investigations of the human body and human senses typical of the Enlightenment? (page 510)
4. “A Social Contract”: What is Rousseau's concept of the social contract? What implications did it contain for political thought, especially in regard to the development of democratic ideas? What does Rousseau mean by “the general will”? Might that concept lead as much to dictatorship and totalitarianism as to democracy? Why an/or why not? (page 512)
5. “Women in the Age of the Enlightenment”: What arguments does Mary Wollstonecraft make on behalf of the rights of women? What contemporary trends in other aspects of eighteenth-century life would have brought the condition of women into sharper focus as an essential topic of enlightened investigation and

improvement? What might explain Wollstonecraft's relative failure to achieve her objectives in her own era? (page 485)

6. "The Punishment of Crime": What does this selection reveal about the punishment of crime in the eighteenth century? What impact do you think such descriptions had on the philosophes' attitudes toward justice and the current royal administrations of the state? (page 522)

8. "The Conversion Experience in Wesley's Methodism": How does the emotionalism of this passage relate to enlightened thinkers' fascination with the passions and the workings of human reason? Did eighteenth-century religious thinkers and religious practices accept or reject new enlightened ideas about human nature and behavior? How would Voltaire have responded to Wesley and his revivalism? (page 528)

MAP QUESTIONS:

1. The Enlightenment in Europe map-(page 506)- What countries or regions were at the center of the Enlightenment, and what would account for peripheral regions being less involved?

Identifications:

1. Immanuel Kant
2. *reason*
3. Fontenelle's *Plurality of Worlds*
4. Pierre Bayle
5. James Cook's *Travels*
6. John Locke's *tabula rasa*
7. *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
8. *philosophes*
9. Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws*
10. Voltaire's *Treatise on Toleration*
11. deism
12. Denis Diderot's *Encyclopedia*
13. "science of man"
14. David Hume
15. Physiocrats
16. Francois Quesnay
17. Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*
18. *laissez-faire*
19. Condorcet and Baron d'Holbach
20. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract* and the general will
21. *Emile*
22. Mary Astell's *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*
23. Mary Wollstonecraft
24. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
25. the salon and the coffeehouse
26. Marie-Therese de Geoffrin
27. American Philosophical Society
28. Rococo
29. Antoine Watteau
30. Balthasar Neumann
31. Neoclassicism
32. Jacques-Louis David
33. Johann Sebastian Bach
34. George Frederick Handel
35. Franz Joseph Haydn
36. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
37. Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*
38. Henry Fielding's *History of Tom Jones, A Foundling*
39. Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
40. Addison and Steele's *Spectator*
41. newspapers and libraries
42. Cesare Beccaria
43. Carnival
44. Joseph II's Toleration Patent
45. Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews
46. pietism and the Moravian Brethren
47. John Wesley and Methodism